

Pakistanis burning the U.S. flag and shouting, "Whoever is a friend of America is a traitor of the land." Clearly, Mr. Speaker, instead of winning the hearts and minds, we are giving terrorists a recruitment tool.

Pakistan has not always been the most reliable partner, but they are an ally—and let's not forget, a nuclear power—with whom we share important mutual interests. We need their cooperation if there is going to be political reconciliation and long-term stability in neighboring Afghanistan. This incident leads me to believe more strongly than ever that we must redeploy our troops out of Afghanistan. We have very difficult diplomatic work to do there—work that is being complicated, not facilitated, by our military presence.

After more than 10 years of failed war that is undermining our security interests, it's time to change our role in the region from one of military occupier to one of constructive partner. Pakistan and Afghanistan are the first places we could be implementing the SMART security strategy I've talked about so many times from this very spot.

While it's true that we send enormous amounts of foreign aid to Pakistan, the overwhelming majority of it goes to the military, with very little trickling down to the people. We could instead spend more to boost Pakistan's literacy rate, or more investment in key infrastructure projects, the growth of civil society, or life-changing humanitarian efforts.

□ 1100

To give one specific example, Pakistan is one of four countries on Earth—and Afghanistan is one of the others—that hasn't completely eradicated polio. For pennies on the dollar, compared to our military expenditures, we can help provide the vaccination that would eliminate this dire public threat. Perhaps then we'll be able to change the fact that only 11 percent of Pakistanis have a favorable view of the United States. Perhaps instead of destabilizing influences of 100,000 troops on the ground, we can build a stronger relationship based on mutual trust, one that promotes peace and empowers the Pakistani people with a humanitarian surge instead of a military surge.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for SMART Security, and it starts with bringing our troops home.

POVERTY AND HIV/AIDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, as a founding co-chair of both the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus and the Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus, I rise today to draw attention once again to the ongoing crisis of poverty in America. And, today, I also want to draw particular attention to the im-

pact of poverty on our national fight to stop HIV and AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, December 1 is World AIDS Day, and this year marks 30 years after the first discovery of AIDS cases. The United States and the HIV/AIDS community globally have made tremendous progress in our collective response to this domestic and global crisis. We have reduced the stigma surrounding the disease and strengthened education and outreach activities which continue to prevent millions of new cases of HIV worldwide. The scientific community has improved the treatment of HIV and AIDS with antiretrovirals and combination therapies, and recent breakthroughs have revolutionized the way we think about AIDS.

We have come a long way in our battle against AIDS. Contracting HIV no longer has to be a death sentence. But we have much more work to do. Not everyone who is HIV positive has access to these life-saving therapies. For the one in three Americans who are poor or near poor, HIV can still be the same death sentence that it was during the Reagan Presidency. Today, nearly one in five Americans with HIV do not even know their status, and only about half of Americans who do know their status are receiving the treatment that they need.

For the 100 million Americans either in poverty or living on the edge of poverty, much more must be done. Access to the drug cocktails, high-quality health care, housing, and healthy foods that are all critical for people living with HIV are out of reach for far too many.

Mr. Speaker, 30 years later, we continue to shortchange HIV efforts in poverty-stricken communities; we fail to fully include women in outreach education and treatment; and we lack the resources for communities of color. This is just simply unconscionable.

Women of color and young gay and bisexual men still receive the most severe burden of HIV in the United States. African Americans represent approximately 14 percent of the United States population, but accounted for an estimated 44 percent of new infections in 2009. And we know the numbers are on the rise in Latino communities and Asian Pacific American communities as well. These disproportionate rates of infection are not something that have happened in isolation. People of color continue to face higher rates of unemployment, incarceration, poverty and near poverty than their white counterparts. We can and we must do much better than this.

We must do more for those who are disproportionately impacted by HIV and AIDS, both here in America and around the world. We must provide the science-based, comprehensive sex education that is proven to reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. And we must grow past old fears and engage all community stakeholders to truly end the stigma surrounding the testing and treatment of

this disease. We must repeal laws that legalize and promote discrimination and hate. We must support and expand programs which provide critical support for people living with HIV and AIDS and immediately—mind you, immediately—extend treatment to the thousands of Americans on the waiting list for life-saving drugs.

And of course we must fully implement the national HIV/AIDS strategy and support Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. These policies are the critical next steps in our fight to stop this terrible disease. And we must protect the fraction of one percent the Federal budget directed to our global AIDS programs through PEPFAR and the Global Fund.

U.S. efforts are dramatically reducing the burden of HIV and AIDS in developing countries, and failing to support these programs would have dramatic national security and diplomatic implications for the United States—not to mention the humanitarian disaster that would occur. That is why last week I was very proud to be joined by over 100 Members of Congress in seeking appropriations of at least \$5.25 billion for the PEPFAR program and \$1.5 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. And I will enter this letter into the RECORD.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I was proud to have played a role in overturning the unjust and ineffective HIV travel ban in 2008. And, now, for the very first time in 20 years, the International AIDS Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. in July of 2012.

So let me encourage every Member and their staff to engage with the leading researchers and doctors in the worldwide fight against HIV and AIDS. Our global leadership will never be more important than at this promising moment of reversal, when we could move forward or we could go backwards. So I hope every Member will join our bipartisan 60-plus members of the HIV/AIDS Caucus.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, November 21, 2011.

Hon. KAY GRANGER,

Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on State/Foreign Operations, Washington, DC.

Hon. NITA LOWEY,

Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on State/Foreign Operations, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,

Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on State/Foreign Operations, Washington, DC.

Hon. LINDSEY GRAHAM

Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on State/Foreign Operations, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN LEAHY AND GRANGER, AND RANKING MEMBERS GRAHAM AND LOWEY: As you begin negotiations on a final Fiscal Year 2012 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill, we write to respectfully request that you secure funding for bilateral and multilateral HIV/AIDS programs at the levels proposed in S.1601, Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2012.

We urge support for \$7.9 billion for global health programs contained in the Senate

mark. More specifically, we urge you to support, at the very least, \$5.25 billion for the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and \$750 million for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as explicitly allocated in S. 1601. In total, we support \$1.05 billion for the Global Fund (of which \$300 million is contained in the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill). Moreover, we are strongly opposed to language contained in the House Subcommittee Mark prohibiting funding for syringe exchange programs, which are proven to reduce the incidence of HIV infection.

U.S. global health programs including PEPFAR, along with U.S. contributions to the Global Fund, are reducing disease burden in low- and middle-income countries, and these programs have important national security and diplomatic elements for the United States. Global health programs directly impact American security interests by stabilizing parts of the world where extremism and a lack of alternatives are a recipe for future conflict. The economic impact of global health activities is also felt in the U.S., providing thousands of jobs to help plan and implement global health programming and to conduct health-related research at colleges and universities.

Thanks to the help of the United States, the Global Fund has grown into a proven, country-driven, performance-based mechanism which ensures that countries themselves are responsible for building their own sustainable programs. The Global Fund has a robust history of improving its function and continues to do so through its recent announcement of an improvements agenda to further ensure every dollar is utilized effectively, remains accountable, and is transparent in operation.

We also welcome PEPFAR's leadership on advancing combination HIV prevention approaches and urge the conferees to ensure that these interventions are implemented to their fullest and meet the needs of those most at-risk, especially marginalized populations. Moreover, integration of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment programs—and, where appropriate, other critical global health programs funded by this bill, including maternal health, child survival, family planning/reproductive health, and nutrition—is critical for ensuring that the health needs of individuals are met and the impact of funding is maximized.

In recent months, U.S.-funded research has made enormous progress in shaping the response to AIDS and malaria worldwide. These remarkable scientific advances call for a renewed emphasis on ensuring that we maintain robust support for PEPFAR and the Global Fund and continue the vital U.S. commitment to the fight against global HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria.

These programs amount to a fraction of one percent of the federal budget, but they affect the lives of tens of millions, guard against future conflicts, open up developing markets, and will have lasting impact on the global AIDS epidemic in the long term.

Thank you for considering this request.

Barbara Lee, Member of Congress; Wm. Lacy Clay, Member of Congress; Bobby Rush, Member of Congress; Maurice Hinchey, Member of Congress; Donna Christensen, Member of Congress; Donald Payne, Member of Congress; John Lewis, Member of Congress; Keith Ellison, Member of Congress; Emanuel Cleaver, Member of Congress; Dale Kildee, Member of Congress; Sheila Jackson Lee, Member of Congress; Pete Stark, Member of Congress; Tammy Baldwin, Member of Congress; John Conyers, Jr., Member of Congress; John

Sarbanes, Member of Congress; Mike Quigley, Member of Congress; Eleanor Holmes Norton, Member of Congress; Gwen Moore, Member of Congress; Karen Bass, Member of Congress; Frederica Wilson, Member of Congress; Diana DeGette, Member of Congress; Yvette Clarke, Member of Congress; Edolphus Towns, Member of Congress; Lynn Woolsey, Member of Congress; Bruce Braley, Member of Congress; Raúl Grijalva, Member of Congress; Barney Frank, Member of Congress; Donna Edwards, Member of Congress; Lucille Roybal-Allard, Member of Congress; Janice Schakowsky, Member of Congress; Theodore Deutch, Member of Congress; Alcee Hastings, Member of Congress; Terri Sewell, Member of Congress; Jim McDermott, Member of Congress; Tim Ryan, Member of Congress; Grace Napolitano, Member of Congress; Russ Carnahan, Member of Congress; Marcia Fudge, Member of Congress; Colleen Hanabusa, Member of Congress; Hansen Clarke, Member of Congress; Sanford Bishop, Member of Congress; Ed Perlmutter, Member of Congress; Charles Rangel, Member of Congress; Robert Brady, Member of Congress; G.K. Butterfield, Member of Congress; Eliot Engel, Member of Congress; Eddie Bernice Johnson, Member of Congress; Henry Waxman, Member of Congress; Danny Davis, Member of Congress; Mike Honda, Member of Congress; Sam Farr, Member of Congress; David Scott, Member of Congress; Joe Baca, Member of Congress; Betty Sutton, Member of Congress; John Garamendi, Member of Congress; Melvin Watt, Member of Congress; Dennis Kucinich, Member of Congress; Maxine Waters, Member of Congress; Cedric Richmond, Member of Congress; Jackie Speier, Member of Congress; Doris Matsui, Member of Congress; Carolyn Maloney, Member of Congress; Bobby Scott, Member of Congress; Steve Cohen, Member of Congress; Laura Richardson, Member of Congress; Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Member of Congress; Rubén Hinojosa, Member of Congress; James Moran, Member of Congress; Gary Ackerman, Member of Congress; André Carson, Member of Congress; Bennie Thompson, Member of Congress; Hank Johnson, Member of Congress; Al Green, Member of Congress; Judy Chu, Member of Congress; Bob Filner, Member of Congress; Jared Polis, Member of Congress; Corrine Brown, Member of Congress; Chaka Fattah, Member of Congress; Albio Sires, Member of Congress; Joseph Crowley, Member of Congress; Ed Pastor, Member of Congress; Zoe Lofgren, Member of Congress; Michael Capuano, Member of Congress; Louise Slaughter, Member of Congress; Chris Van Hollen, Member of Congress; Shelley Berkley, Member of Congress; Howard Berman, Member of Congress; José Serrano, Member of Congress; Rosa DeLauro, Member of Congress; Lois Capps, Member of Congress; Luis Guterrez, Member of Congress; David Cicilline, Member of Congress; James McGovern, Member of Congress; Jerrold Nadler, Member of Congress; David Price, Member of Congress; Sander Levin, Member of Congress; Madeleine Bordallo, Member of Congress; Rush Holt, Member of Congress; Gregory Meeks, Member of Congress; John Oliver, Member of Congress; Elijah Cummings, Member of Congress; Earl Blumenauer, Member of Congress; George Miller, Member of Congress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Jay Therrell, Cape Coral First United Methodist Church, Cape Coral, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, Your word says that "from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded." Today, we offer our gratitude for the blessings of freedom You have given our Nation. You have blessed us with much. Acknowledging our blessings, we pray that You would continue to remind us that America has been blessed to be a blessing to others.

Grant the Members of this House of Representatives Your wisdom and grace to provide leadership at home and around the world. Help our country to continue to be a light to everyone by pointing all people to true freedom and justice that can only come from You.

As we enter this season of hope, please bless this Congress and all of our leaders with Your guidance to make decisions filled with Your love. God, please continue to bless America, but please help America to bless You.

We ask these things in the name of Your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HULTGREN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.